

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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*Contra Costa County Board of
Supervisors*

*Sacramento County Board of
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*San Joaquin County Board of
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*Solano County Board of
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*Yolo County Board of
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*Cities of Contra Costa and
Solano Counties*

*Cities of Sacramento and
Yolo Counties*

Cities of San Joaquin County

*Central Delta Reclamation
Districts*

North Delta Reclamation Districts

South Delta Reclamation Districts

CA State Transportation Agency

*CA Department of Food and
Agriculture*

CA Natural Resources Agency

CA State Lands Commission

February 21, 2014

Craig Wilson
Delta Watermaster
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wilson:

On behalf of the Delta Protection Commission, I am pleased to transmit the report "Comparing Consumptive Agricultural Water Use in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: A Proof of Concept Using Remote Sensing", completed by the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences.

Completed under contract to the Commission, the report evaluates two existing estimates of consumptive use of water for crop production by comparing them to actual evapotranspiration rates utilizing remote sensing data. Five islands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and multiple crop types were evaluated, and the report shows the existing estimates of crop evapotranspiration provide a high degree of detail and results similar to the remote sensing data.

The results of this study would argue for using the estimates – CAL-SIMETAW and ITRC – in lieu of individual water monitoring devices by Delta farmers for measuring consumptive Ag use. Given the difficulty in measuring water in the porous Delta Ag system, utilizing these field-verified estimates would reduce the cost of regulatory compliance by Delta farmers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Erik Vink
Executive Director

Enclosure